

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN TRUDI SCHMIDT**, on March 26, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Trudi Schmidt, Chairman (D)
Sen. Keith Bales (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Greg Lind (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)
Sen. Dan Weinberg (D)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 818, 3/20/2007; HB 819,
3/20/2007; HB 820, 3/20/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:00:00

00:00:06 Sen. Schmidt

00:00:40 Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

[EXHIBIT\(fcs64a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs64a02\)](#)

00:14:44 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and
Program Planning

[EXHIBIT\(fcs64a03\)](#)

Questions from Committee and Responses:

00:26:06 Sen. Laible to Clayton Schenck

00:28:37 Sen. Barkus to Clayton Schenck

00:30:11 Sen. Wanzenried to David Ewer

HEARING ON HB 818

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:32:20 **REP. JANNA TAYLOR (R), HD 11**, opened the hearing on **HB 818**, Appropriations for legislative branch.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:35:01 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and
Program Planning

00:36:18 Susan Fox, Director, Legislative Services Division

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:41:14 Sen. Cooney to Susan Fox

Closing by Sponsor:

00:44:12 Rep. Taylor

HEARING ON HB 819

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:45:02 **REP. JANNA TAYLOR (R), HD 11**, opened the hearing on **HB 819**, Appropriations for judicial branch.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:47:43 Lois Menzies, Court Administrator, Montana Supreme Court

EXHIBIT(fcs64a04)

00:51:02 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning

00:52:08 John Larson, District Judge

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:52:48 Sen. Cobb to Rep. Taylor

00:53:24 Sen. Larson to Rep. Taylor

00:55:23 Sen. Williams to Rep. Taylor

00:59:19 Sen. Gallus to Rep. Taylor

01:01:10 Sen. Larson to Rep. Taylor

01:03:18 Sen. Gallus to Rep. Taylor

01:04:19 Sen. Cooney to Lois Menzies

Closing by Sponsor:

01:05:09 Rep. Taylor

HEARING ON HB 820

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:05:28 **REP. JANNA TAYLOR (R), HD 11**, opened the hearing on **HB 820**, Biennial funding for certain executive branch agencies.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:36:12 Mark Simonich, representing Secretary of State

Opponents' Testimony:

01:38:49 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning

01:45:17 David Hunter, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue

01:55:08 Eric Burke, MEA-MFT

Informational Testimony:

01:56:28 Jim Lynch, Department of Transportation

01:58:50 Janet Kelly, Department of Administration

02:00:33 Dennis Unsworth, Commissioner of Political Practices

02:03:26 Randi Hood, Chief Public Defender (CPD)

02:05:29 Pam Bucy, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice

02:08:01 Kurt Kruger, District Court Judge

02:10:31 Erin McGowan-Fincham, State Auditor's Office

02:11:07 Recess

02:35:23 Reconvene

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:35:39 Sen. Hansen to Rep. Taylor

02:39:04 Sen. Hansen to Director Jim Lynch

02:43:13 Sen. Hansen to Rep. Taylor

02:44:40 Sen. Schmidt to Director Jim Lynch

02:46:19 Sen. Gallus to Rep. Taylor

02:49:26 Sen. Gallus to Randi Hood, CPD

02:54:01 Sen. Laible to Director Dan Bucks

03:06:59 Sen. Schmidt

03:07:07 Sen. Laible to Director Dan Bucks

03:16:05 Sen. Stapleton to Director Dan Bucks

03:35:58 Sen. Williams to Randi Hood, CPD

03:42:34 Sen. Barkus to Director Dan Bucks

03:48:59 Sen. Laible to Pam Bucy

03:57:26 Sen. Laible to Rep. Taylor

03:58:43 Sen. Gallus to Judge Krueger

04:01:56 Sen. Cooney to Director Dan Bucks

04:03:55 Sen. Larson to Harry Freebourn, Office of Public
Defender

Closing by Sponsor:

04:07:51 Rep. Taylor

ADJOURNMENT

Recess: 12:20 P.M.

SEN. TRUDI SCHMIDT, Chairman

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

TS/pg

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([fcs64aad.pdf](#))